

Nebraska State Board of Landscape Architects
Board Meeting Notes – April 29, 2025, 9:30 a.m.
215 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln NE

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Seacrest called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. and noted the location of the Open Meetings Act. Notice of the meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on April 12, 2025, and on the Board's website in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

Roll Call: Jennifer Seacrest, Chairperson; Bradley Swerczek; Kristina Engler; Dennis Bryers; Absent: Jonathan Hauck, Vice-Chairperson; Derek Miller

Staff Present: Jean Lais, Administrative Programs Officer (APO); Cole Gressley, Administrative Programs Officer (APO)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

PUBLIC COMMENT/APPOINTMENTS

No members of the public were present.

A. CONSENT AGENDA

[January 28, 2025, Meeting Minutes](#)

Motion by Swerczek, second by Engler, to approve the consent agenda. Voting Yes: Swerczek, Engler, Bryers, Seacrest; Voting No: None; Absent: Miller; Hauck Abstain: Bryers

B. MEETING REPORTS

CLARB

[In the Know Webinar Series](#)

A copy of the upcoming *In the Know* webinars was provided. The midyear meeting update is today. A series of forthcoming events, including the licensure summit with SLA, is on June 25th. The annual meeting is in Lexington; the Hyatt Regency Hotel is for the Board.

Other Reports

[Office/Staff](#)

APO Gressley informed the Board of the change in staff and hired a new Office Specialist, Cade Gerdes.

C. OLD BUSINESS

CLARB – None

Legislative

[Statute Revisions to the Professional Landscape Architects Act](#)

LB 696 advanced to enrollment and initial review in the Legislature on day 66 of the Legislative session; we are now on day 70. LB 696 passed the first round of debate on April 23rd. No E&R (enrollment and review) amendment has been introduced to date.

Other Old Business – None

D. NEW BUSINESS

CLARB – None

Legislative

[Introduced Bills of Interest](#)

- **LB29** would revise the mandatory rules and regulations required in the Occupational Board Reform Act from five to three years to be completed by June 30th. The standing committee responsible would be required to submit its report by December 31st.
- **LB190**—Provides duties for the Legislative Performance Audit Committee—The bill would require all agencies to undergo a performance audit every five years.

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- **LB221** – Provides a procedure to fill unfilled gubernatorial appointments.
- **LB261** – 2025-27 Biennium Budget Bill – The Governor’s recommendation does not include any of the additional funds requested and retains the appropriations for each year at \$30,214.00. The Board’s Fiscal Analyst met with the Appropriations Committee on January 24, 2025, to discuss the recommendations. APO Lais stressed that when the budget request was prepared, staff looked at both the expended appropriations in the last several fiscal years and also the increase of projected costs for the services being provided. The two largest expenses are the membership dues to the Council of Landscape Architects Registration Boards (CLARB) and the administrative service contract with the Board of Engineers and Architects (NBEA). Without the appropriate funds, the Board cannot function and fulfill its mission and duties.

The committee hearing is scheduled for February 19, 2025. The Board discussed how it would respond if the committee’s recommendations were the same as the Governor’s. Chairperson Seacrest and Vice-Chairperson Hauck were selected to make the determination on how to proceed once the committee recommendations are published. If it is to give the Board the funds requested, a letter will be drafted and sent to the committee in support in lieu of testifying in person.
- **LB317** – Merges the Department of Natural Resources with the Department of Environment and Energy to create the Department of Water, Energy, and Environment.
- **LB346** – Provides for the termination of boards, commissions, committees, councils, funds, panels, task forces, and acts, and eliminates funds, and powers and duties of departments and agencies. The State Board of Landscape Architects is not included in the bill.
- **LB472** – Adopts the Regulatory Management Act
- **LB565** – Provides and changes requirements related to agency guidance documents.
- **LB634** – Adopts the Legislative Sunset Review Act. The Act would require a sunset review of agencies every five years.
- **LB664** – Changes the Administrative Procedures Act to require agencies to allow for public comment and submissions on proposed rules and regulations and change the permissible venue for civil actions challenging rules and regulations.

Other New Business

[Strategic Plan Review](#)

A copy of the current Strategic Plan was provided – No discussion or action was taken.

Chairperson Seacrest suggested reviewing photos on the website.

[Title 231 revisions](#)

APO Lais discussed potential changes; Chairperson Seacrest suggested that APO Gressley send out this draft of revisions before the next Board meeting. APO Lais pointed out that 100% of comity licensure applications within the past five years have been with a certified CLARB record administratively approved by staff. APO Lais discussed reducing application fees. Chairperson Seacrest suggested a single fee for all applications. Discussion was held on how fast the Board wants to bring the cash fund in line with Board policy. The members requested that staff provide several scenarios, from an aggressive decrease to a more moderate decrease.

E. COMPLIANCE – None

F. APPLICATIONS

Administratively Approved

[Licensure by CLARB Certificate](#)

LA 477 Mark Pelusi, LA 478 Jeffrey Pugh

[Initial Licensure – None](#)

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Licensure/Examinations

Licensure by Comity – *None*

Licensure by Reinstatement – *None*

LARE Applications without an LAAB/LAAC-accredited degree – *None*

Motion by Bryers, second by Engler, to approve the applications as presented. Voting Yes: Swerczek, Engler, Bryers, Seacrest; Voting No: None; Absent: Miller, Hauck

G. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Financial Reports – October, November, December

Budget Status Report

MTD General Ledger Detail Reports

Fund Summary Reports

FY24-25 Financial Profile

FY24-25 Financial Summary

APO Lais reported that the Board has spent under 64% of allocations, and we have received 123% of the budgeted revenue. The Board underestimates investment, applications, and renewals. The cash fund is at \$105,751 which is \$8,626 more than last year. APO Lais also discussed estimated expenses, stating that we will still be left with a surplus even if we do not bring in additional revenue this fiscal year.

Motion by Swerczek, second by Bryers, to approve the financial reports as presented. Voting Yes: Swerczek, Engler, Bryers, Seacrest; Voting No: None; Absent: Miller, Hauck

Other Financial Matters

LB261 2025-2027 Biennium Budget Bill Update

A copy of the Appropriations Committee recommendation and the letter submitted by Chairperson Seacrest was provided. The Committee recommended the Board receive all its requests except for the increase in travel expenses. After staff discussed the recommendation with the officers, it was determined that the Board could work with the recommendation without the increased travel expenses, and they opted to submit the letter instead of testifying at the hearing.

The Appropriations Committee's amendment has not yet been released with the final numbers.

FY2025-26 Administrative Services Contract

The contract with the Board of Engineers and Architects (NBEA) provides administrative services to the Board. Staff time spent on the Board is averaged over the last three calendar years. The resulting percentage is applied to the shared appropriated expenses for the contract period. The cost of travel to the Council of Landscape Architecture Registration Boards (CLARB) annual meeting is included based on airfare and costs in February 2025. The cost of the FY2025-26 contract is \$17,645, to be billed quarterly. Additional services outside the provided list will be charged at a weighted hourly rate of \$24.337 and must have signed approval by both boards before any work is started. The contract reflects a \$699 increase over the FY2024-25 contract.

Motion by Bryers, second by Engler, to approve the administrative services contract with the Board of Engineers and Architects. Voting Yes: Swerczek, Engler, Bryers, Seacrest; Voting No: None; Absent: Miller, Hauck

H. GENERAL INFORMATION

A schedule of upcoming meetings and events was provided. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for July 29th, at 9:30 a.m. at 215 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE.

A copy of Miller's resignation/notice of not seeking reappointment was provided.

Trends in Licensure

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As of January 23, 2025

Professional Landscape Architects	172
In State	62
Out of State	110
Licenses issued to Date in FY2024-25	9

Other Information

The LARE results from December were provided.

The Website Dashboard analytics show the following number of total visits:

October: 291

November: 372

December: 335

A copy of the Board's approved policies as of January 30, 2024, was provided.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Seacrest adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Board Member